

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00  
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02  
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01  
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-05 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 /100 W  
-----114702 211346Z /45

R 211035Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1474  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY  
USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EGEN, UK  
SUBJECT: ICC ON CORRUPT PRACTICES IN BUSINESS

REF: LONDON 18969

1. LORD SHAWCROSS, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMISSION ON BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION  
IN BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS, STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE ICC  
FOR WATERING DOWN HIS COMMISSION'S PROPOSED GUIDELINES  
AT ITS MEETING NOVEMBER 29. IN AN ON THE RECORD TALK  
AT CHATHAM HOUSE DECEMBER 19, SHAWCROSS SAID THE  
CHAMBER HAS PRODUCED A WATERED DOWN VERSION OF AN  
ALREADY WATERED DOWN CODE, ACCUSING IT OF PUSILLANIMITY,  
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WHICH, HE SAID, IN THESE MATTERS IS LIKE COWARDICE IN  
THE FACE OF THE ENEMY. HE CRITICIZED PARTICULARLY THE  
SCRAPPING OF THE PANEL WHICH THE COMMISSION PROPOSED  
TO ADVISE THE ICC ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE.

2. SHAWCROSS SAID THE COMMISSION HAD ALREADY MADE MANY  
CONCESSIONS TO ITS FRENCH, GERMAN AND BELGIAN MEMBERS

IN DEVELOPING THE PROPOSED CODE; HE DID NOT THINK THE RESULTANT CODE SHOULD CAUSE ANY ANXIETY AMONG HONEST BUSINESSMEN. HOWEVER THE ICC, LED BY THE CONTINENTALS, HAD TO GO FURTHER, AND ITS ACTION WILL NOT INCREASE ITS CREDIBILITY. BUSINESS, HE SAID, MUST ENTER INTO A SELF-DENYING ORDINANCE NOT TO DO BUSINESS WHERE CORRUPTION IS REQUIRED AND TO EXPOSE THOSE WHO DO. IF THE CONTINENTALS ARE NOT READY TO AGREE THEY SHOULD SAY SO PUBLICLY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT RECIPIENT COUNTRIES HAVE ATTACKED BRIBERY IN THE UN BUT DONE NOTHING TO RESTRAIN THEIR OWN OFFICIALS.

3. SHAWCROSS SAID IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS (TO SOME EXTENT OFF THE RECORD) THAT HE THOUGHT THE DIFFICULTIES MIGHT NOW RELATE ONLY TO FRANCE AND BELGIUM, AND PROBABLY ONLY TO A FEW PEOPLE IN THOSE COUNTRIES. HE DOES NOT THINK BRITISH BUSINESS WOULD SUPPORT HIS COMMISSION'S CODE UNANIMOUSLY, BUT A BIG MAJORITY WOULD FORCE THE REST TO GO ALONG.

4. SIR REAY GEDDES, CHAIRMAN OF THE UK COUNCIL OF ICC, WHO WAS PRESENT, QUESTIONED WHETHER PROGRESS ON THIS PROBLEM IS, AS LORD SHAWCROSS SUGGESTED, TOO SLOW; CREDIBILITY MIGHT LIE IN BROAD ACCEPTANCE OF SMALLER STEPS RATHER THAN IN TRYING TO GO TOO FAR. HE THOUGHT THE CHAMBER'S ACTION MIGHT BE CONSIDERED "POSITIVE IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DELIBERATE" RATHER THAN "SHAKY AND IRRESOLUTE". SHAWCROSS RESPONDED BY COMPLIMENTING GEDDES AS A MAIN SUPPLEMENTARY CODE AT THE ICC, BUT DID NOT ACCEPT HIS THESIS, SAYING HE DOESN'T THINK THE ICC'S ACTION IS CREDIBLE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE MINIMAL TEETH THE PANEL WOULD HAVE PROVIDED.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESS FIRMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** ICC ON CORRUPT PRACTICES IN BUSINESS  
**TAGS:** EGEN, UK, INTCHAM  
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**Type:** TE  
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